

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 IO-13 SSM-03 /072 W

-----181255Z 058556 /44

R 180903Z MAY 77

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4064

INFO AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 2374

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: LE PFOR

SUBJ: A VIEW FROM LEBANON'S FAR RIGHT

1. CHARGE WAS VISITED MAY 16 BY MR. JOHN ABUSADA, P.O. BOX 6055, BEIRUT, LEBANON. ABUSADA IDENTIFIES HIMSELF AS PH.D. IN ECONOMICS AND POLITICAL SCIENCE, MARKETING AND PUBLIC RELATIONS AND CLAIMS TO REPRESENT "INSTITUTION OF RESEARCH AND ECONOMY DEVELOPMENT," P.O. BOX 11-6055, BEIRUT. ABUSADA, WHO HAD VISITED EMBASSY PREVIOUS WEEK TO PRESENT A VERY SKETCHY AND COMPLETELY UNPROFESSIONAL 25-YEAR INDUSTRIALIZATION PLAN FOR LEBANON, SAID THAT HE NOW WANTED TO TALK POLITICS. CLAIMING TO REPRESENT LEBANON'S 7,000 MASONS, ABUSADA SAID HE AND HIS "FRIENDS" HAD DEVELOPED A POLITICAL-MILITARY PLAN TO REASSERT LEBANESE CONTROL OVER THE COUNTRY. THEY HAD 5,000 ARMED OFFICERS AND MEN AND WERE PLANNING A POLITICAL AND MILITARY ATTACK TO TAKE OVER LEBANON AND WIPE OUT THE PALESTINIANS. ALL THEY NEEDED WAS U.S. POLITICAL AND MILITARY SUPPORT.

2. CHARGE REPLIED IN STRONGEST POSSIBLE TERMS THAT USG WAS NOT REPEAT NOT INTERESTED IN SUPPORTING ANY SUCH PLAN. U.S. WANTED PEACE IN LEBANON, NOT WAR. USG POLICY WAS TO SUPPORT THE LEGITIMATE, CONSTITUTIONAL GOVERNMENT OF PRESIDENT SARKIS AND LEGAL AUTHORITIES
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IN LEBANON IN THEIR EFFORTS TO REBUILD THE COUNTRY AND REESTABLISH CENTRAL GOVERNMENT'S CONTROL. ABUSADA SEEMED SOMEWHAT TAKEN ABACK AND INSISTED THAT PALESTINIANS WERE TAKING OVER LEBANON AND U.S. MUST HELP TO PREVENT THIS. HE SAID THERE WERE NOW 650,000 (SIC) PALESTINIANS IN LEBANON AND 300 MORE WERE ARRIVING EVERY DAY VIA THE AIRPORT AND THE PORT

OF TYRE. ARAFAT'S PLAN WAS TO INSTALL A TOTAL OF ONE MILLION PLUS PALESTINIANS IN LEBANON AND TAKE OVER THE COUNTRY AND SURROUNDING MUSLIM COUNTRIES WERE LENDING THEIR ASSISTANCE OR ACQUIESCENCE. LEBANESE MUSLIMS WERE OPPOSED BUT HAD BEEN TERRORIZED INTO SILENCE. LEBANESE CHRISTIANS WERE THEREFORE COMPELLED TO ACT.

3. ABUSADA SAID USG SHOULD IN ITS OWN INTEREST SUPPORT EFFORTS OF HIS GROUP. BASING ITSELF ON THE TRIANGLE OF ISRAEL, A CHRISTIAN LEBANON, AND CYPRUS, USG COULD CONTROL MIDDLE EAST AND ITS OIL SUPPLIES. WITHOUT GETTING INTO A DISCUSSION OF THE IRRATIONALITY OF THIS ASSERTION, CHARGE REPEATED THAT USG WAS COMPLETELY OPPOSED TO ANY SUCH MILITARY ADVENTURE. CHARGE SAID THAT U.S. REMAINS INTERESTED IN LONG-TERM SECURITY OF CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY BUT THE BEST THING THAT CHRISTIAN LEBANESE COULD DO TO PROTECT THEIR LONG-RUN INTERESTS WAS TO SUPPORT THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT OF PRESIDENT SARKIS AND STRENGTHEN ITS POSITION IN LEBANON.

4. COMMENT: I AM REPORTING THIS CONVERSATION AS AN ILLUSTRATION OF THE KIND OF DESPERATE PLANS THAT ARE NOW BEING DREAMED UP IN SOME CHRISTIAN QUARTERS AS A RESULT OF THEIR FRUSTRATION AND FEAR OF BEING OVERWHELMED BY SURROUNDING MUSLIM STATES AND POPULATIONS. ABUSADA IS CLEARLY ON THE LUNATIC FRINGE, BUT PATRIARCH ELIAS IV REMARKS TO AMBASSADOR MURPHY (DAMASCUS 3070) SUGGEST THAT HE IS NOT THE ONLY

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MARONITE CHRISTIAN NOW THINKING IN THESE TERMS. ABUSADA SAID HE MAY BE VISITING U.S. SOON, IN WHICH CASE HE WOULD SEEK TO CALL ON LEBANESE DESK OFFICER HOWELL. LANE

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Message Attributes

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Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
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Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
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